


Quote

VOL. 3

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, JANUARY 12, 1942

NO. 2



1942 will be a crucial year, but not one to be afraid of. We enter it a united people, calm and determined to emerge victorious in the struggle for preservation of the rights of man, for the freedom of soul, for the sanctity of agreement upon which our security and that of our children depends. We need have no fear of the final outcome. . . . We are going to win the war. We are also

going to win the peace.—

C. G. WYCKOFF, Publisher,
The Magazine of Wall Street.



For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned*

WORLD WEEK

There's much speculation upon the question: *Will Singapore hold?* No one apparently considering very real probability that Japan has no immediate intention of overwhelming powerful bastions of the Lion City. Nipponese strategy may be to isolate the island (217 sq. mi.) Might be done by occupying Malaya and Netherland Indies.

Theoretically, this action would cut off reinforcements of Singapore by land. Strategic placement of Japanese air bases in Indies would make it quite hazardous for Allied vessels to ply China Sea or Indian Ocean. If Japan should logically follow by further occupation of Burma, effectively blocking Burma Road and minimizing Allied aid to China, there can hardly be alternative to long and bloody war in Pacific, regardless of developments elsewhere. By this plan Japan would provide herself essential sinews of war—some Malayan iron and coal; Netherlands oil (destroyed wells could be reestablished in a few months).

All this is easier said than done. Japan is yet a long way from accomplishment. But we believe this is essentially the pattern of conquest. How far Japan can travel on road to realization depends upon Allied resources and resistance. Unless Japan can realize this dream in early months of war, it seems improbable she will ever do so.

... — Fact that Hitler apparently is making no serious effort to relieve besieged troops in Africa, lends support to belief that he is counting on French Army to stop British drive when it shall have reached that point. This Army is heavily infiltrated with German agents. Since Weygand's removal there's little chance these forces will aid Allied cause.

RUSSIA: German retreat is *not* a rout. Has progressed at points farther than Germans originally intended. That is notably true in Moscow sector. And there are indications this week that situation in Crimea may develop into something decidedly serious for Nazis. Worth noting that victories in this area are largely over Italian, Rumanian forces.

We have consistently respected Russian Army, but public is building up for big let-down if they believe Germans are permanently on run. Steel yourself for reverses. There's yet a long, fantastically brutal period to come. Stalin is throwing into Winter lines the men and equipment reserved for Spring defense. Can these stores be renewed—in time?

GERMANY: Obviously, there is rift between Hitler and former German Army command. This hardly classifies as news, even to Germans. But current talk of overthrowing Hitler is pretty much bunk. Such gossip overlooks fanatic worship of Fuehrer by masses. Nazis have

Quote prophecies . . .

TRANSPORTATION: Progressive retirement of private automobiles will throw increasingly heavy burden on common carriers. It is entirely conceivable that some restrictions will have to be placed on travel. Will certainly be necessary soon to make space reservations well in advance. . . . Taxi companies (who have no priority rating) are concerned over tire situation. Surplus cabs are being retired from service and drivers instructed not to "cruise" for passengers.

ATLANTIC BATTLE: In line with Hitler's promise that Axis "will always strike first blow" we anticipate early occupation of Dakar. We have previously forecast invasion of Ireland. This will doubtless be followed (or preceded) by attack on Iceland.

been taught this adoration of their leader. It can't be destroyed quickly by handful of military strategists. A few months hence, if things go too badly, Hitler may retire from strategic direction of his armies, as we suggested last week. But he will remain spiritual leader of Nazis.

However, there is this point to consider: If things get that bad, Hitler may find difficulty securing even second-rate gen'l to accept command.

U. S. PRODUCTION: Auto industry has been loath to convert plants to war production, each feeling such action might give competition an edge. Now that all auto production has been stopped, transition should be rapid and effective.

We are not defeatist in suggesting that there is vast difference between President's production promises, and actual fulfillment. Bitter truth is we have not kept past promises. No one doubts American capacity. But war can't be won by voting billions. Congress grows more insistent on tightening production machinery, appointing supreme command with power to get things done. There will be some shifting about, but we see no indication of early sensational shake-up.

—Now, they're wisecracking that even this war was "Made in Japan."

Lawrence Sanders

Publisher.

Quote

"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted."—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"Mussolini has given the people of the free countries great encouragement in proving, after two decades of Fascism, that dictatorship is not necessarily efficient, and that civilized people will not fight well merely for the joy of killing."—WESTBROOK PEGLER, in his Syndicated Column.

" "

"Yes, we will advance, but backwards."—Comment of German soldiers ordered to organize for an advance on Russian front. Reported by a Nazi prisoner.

" "

"The less we use the right to strike now the more we safeguard it for the future."—SIDNEY HILLMAN, Associate Director OPM.

" "

"I am deeply concerned over the increasing number of reports of employers discharging workers who happen to be aliens or even foreign-born citizens. It is one thing to safeguard American industry, and particularly defense industry, against sabotage; but it is very much another to throw out of work honest and loyal people who, except for the accident of birth, are sincerely patriotic."—Pres. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, in press conference.

" "

"This isn't (America's) dark hour. We've just got a drunk in the parlor and have to give him the bum's rush."—OPM Director WILLIAM S. KNUDSEN.

" "

"I hope the first to lose their tubes, their tires, their automobiles, their cocktails and their dinners down at the swank hotels will be the senators and the congressmen."—Rep. CLARE HOFFMAN, of Mich., speaking before the House on the necessity for nationwide sacrifice.

"May we
Quote
you on that?"

"We are on the side of the eternal things."—Editorial in *New York World-Telegram*.

" "

"Girls are wasting their time going out with soldiers. They are not good matrimonial risks, so why go out with them?"—ROSAMUND THERESA PURDY, President, Mt. Holyoke College.

" "

"So acute was the Japanese thirst for conquest that it induced them to drink what they were perfectly aware was poison. Though their thirst has been alleviated for the moment the poison will eventually kill them."—Generalissimo CHIANG KAI-SHEK in a New Year's Day Message to his people.

" "

"Why anyone wants to read novels now, I don't know."—STRUTHERS BURT, author of a "just-off-the-press" novel, *Along These Streets*.

" "

"I have always found it best simply to let women alone altogether and concentrate on men."—CAROLE LANDIS, Motion Picture Star.

" "

"Lord, reform Thy world, beginning with me."—The prayer of a Chinese Christian, quoted by Pres. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT in his talk to Management and Labor.

"We all, therefore, shall ask God Almighty that the year 1942 bring the decision for the rescue of our people and of the nations allied with us. . . . I speak now, believing in Divine justice. . . . The blood which has been spilled in this war shall be, we hope, the last spilled in Europe for generations. May God Almighty assist us in the coming year."—ADOLF HITLER, in his New Year's Day address, notable for the fact that the atheistic Fuehrer now seeks divine strength and guidance.

" "

"There is a sign by which you may judge an enemy's growing fear—the growing recklessness of his lies."—General Sir ARCHIBALD WAVELL.

" "

"Uncle Sam is like the man in the parable. He stripped himself to clothe one more naked than himself, only to be ridiculed by the recipient for being caught without his pants."—U.S. Senator commenting on Russia's attitude on loss of Manila.

" "

"There's no such thing as junk any more."—Price Administrator LEON HENDERSON.

" "

"For the first time in history, a farmer can plant a crop and know that he will get fair prices for it at harvest time."—EDWARD A. O'NEAL, President, Farm Bureau Federation.

" "

"To Hell with the Germans! Millions they may be, but we have many millions more. . . . The land of our forefathers has swallowed not a few hordes of invaders, striving to conquer it. . . . Our land will swallow these German hordes. Thus it was. Thus it will be."—ALEXIS TOLSTOY, son of the Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy.

Quote is issued weekly by QUOTE SERVICE. Maxwell Droke, Publisher. Business and Editorial Offices: Droke House, 1014 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Subscription rates \$3.50 per year in advance, in United States and Possessions. Foreign \$5.00 per year. Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office at Indianapolis, Indiana, under Act of March 3, 1879. QUOTE uses no original manuscripts, and does not accept advertising. Volume 3, Number 2.

AMERICA—Confidence In

Somehow, somewhere, sometime, the Portuguese expect America to save the world. A ragged bootblack who shined my shoes one day on the waterfront refused to accept payment. "Next time you pay," he said. "This time is for President Roosevelt."—S. L. SOLON, "Lisbon: City of Vice and Intrigue," *The American Mercury*, 1-42.

AVIATION

Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, new commander at Hawaii, was turned down the first three times he tried to transfer from infantry to air corps, in 1916, because his hearing wasn't good enough to enable him to hear a watch tick. The fourth time he picked his own examiner, a personal friend. "Hell, you can't hear a watch tick in an airplane, anyway; you're passed," said the friend. So Emmons rose to be our ablest flying commander.—KENNETH WRIGHT, in his Column, *Up to Date*.

BOOKS—Best Sellers

Readers who confine themselves to best sellers are like motorists whose chief aim in life is to cover 600 miles a day. You see very little while driving at seventy miles an hour—you gather very little from the galloping pages of a breathless narrative.—PHILIP VAN DOREN STERN, "Books and Best-Sellers," *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Winter '41.

BOOKS—Borrowed

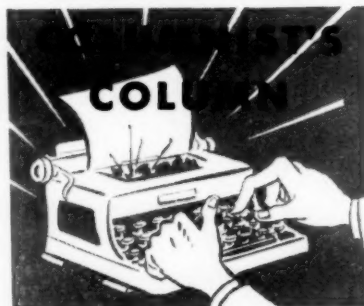
Book borrowers are a special kind of kleptomaniac and cannot be dealt with like an honest, forthright burglar who creeps into your house to steal your silver. So do not shoot the poor devil. Use stratagem. Pretend you don't want the book back. Once he finds that out, he will lose interest.—FRANK SULLIVAN, "How to Get Back Borrowed Books," *Good Housekeeping*, 1-42.

CHRISTIANITY

There is a story about Holman Hunt, who painted the picture, "The Light of the World." It is a painting of Christ in a garden at midnight. In His left hand He is holding a lantern and with His right hand knocking on a heavily paneled door.

On the day his painting was unveiled, a group of art critics was present. One of them remarked, "Mr. Hunt, you haven't finished your work."

"It is finished," the artist answered.



Here Come the Old Fire Horses!

By JOE WILLIAMS
Scripps-Howard Sports Writer

Several days ago, Red Ormsby, the old umpire, looked us up in Chicago. He was in a very unhappy mood; there was a war going on and he wasn't in it. How he'd like to be back with his beloved Marines!

Now comes a letter from Arthur Donovan, America's No. 1 boxing referee: "I want to put myself at the disposal of our country to help and co-operate in the physical instruction of men, the direction of sports activities, or the promotion of athletic programs in whatever capacity it may be judged best. . . ."

There is something vitally significant in this wave of patriotic enthusiasm on the part of the veterans; it shows what Pearl Harbor has done to the country. As individuals these volunteering veterans have limited meaning, but as country-wide symptoms they speak in terms of inevitable victory for the four freedoms.

And we believe there is a place for them in this show—a very definite place. Some of them are too old to fight, but most of them are name figures with certain specialized abilities and inspirational qualities. . . . You want to keep in mind that our forces are made up of youngsters weaned on the sports pages. Very few of them ever got to meet—or even see—the sports figures they read about. Given the choice of taking his daily dozen from a routine director or a Johnny he has been reading about in the sports pages, you know what any youngster's going to do, don't you?

Our military recreational program demands serious study and practical application. . . . Fellows like Donovan, for example, should be eagerly sought. . . . This is a fight where we need the best men at every conceivable post. The veterans are just waiting to be told where to report for the duration.—Condensed from Mr. Williams' daily Syndicated Feature.

"But there is no handle on that door."

"That," said the artist, "is the door to the human heart—it can be opened only from the inside."—FAIRFAX DOWNEY, *Disaster Fights*, (Putnam's).

CONFIDENCE

Paul P. Harris, Rotary's founder and President Emeritus, has taken to art since he has retired and has painted a number of scenic landscapes.

"How come," he was asked one day, "that you sign your works MIKE JR.?" "That's short for Michelangelo, Jr.," Paul explained.

"But," protested the questioner growing a trifle red, "Michelangelo was quite some painter!"

"I know," said Paul gently, "but I always believe in starting at the top!" —"Hobbyhorse Hitching Post," *The Rotarian*, 1-42.

If you can't go across, come across . . . Buy U. S. Defense Stamps and Bonds.

DEMOCRACY—Under Stress

One night, the family house catches fire. The head of the house takes ruthless charge. He gives orders without courtesy or consultation. He unceremoniously carries grandmother downstairs and drops her on the lawn. He bundles the howling baby in a blanket and tosses it, head first, to his son on the ladder. In his need to get at the fire, he smashes toys, dishes, heirlooms. Is that fascism or totalitarianism? Of course not! When the fire is out, each member of the family will resume his rights, privileges, freedoms. Because from the start there was mutuality, understanding. Because there was love.—WALDO FRANK, "Our America: 1942," *The American Mercury*, 1-42.

DOGS—For Defense

Radio-controlled dogs for national defense are due to the inventiveness of Carl Spitz, Los Angeles dog-trainer. Headphones strapped to animal's ears relay instructions over portable short-wave sending unit when master and dog are as much as three miles apart.

EDUCATION

A truck driver we know complains that his son has gotten his B.A. and M.A., but that his P.A. still has to support him.—*Kablegrams*.

Letter to a General

(Re a Private)

He is not a model boy, we know:
This son of ours. (We would not
have him so!).
He is apt to make you fuss and fret,
Because at times he's likely to
forget
Just little things . . . but such that
might upset
Your well-trained sense of dis-
cipline. And yet
He's not to blame. I hope you'll
understand. . . .
The folks he knew were slow to
reprimand
His minor flaws. They could not
long be stern
When once he smiled. But he is
quick to learn.
He's generous, kind, and decent
(and much more).
It's just, sir, we didn't raise our
boy for war.
—THE YOUNGEST ALLEN, "A Line O'
Type or Two," *Chicago Daily Trib-
une*, 12-4-'41.

JUSTICE

Newspapers published an account of the conviction of a wealthy and prominent citizen, who had stolen \$225,000, and who received a five-year prison sentence. In another city not far away, a judge was trying the case of a poor man, who had stolen \$2. Remembering the rich man's five-year sentence for stealing \$225,000, the jurist figured proportionately. First he divided \$225,000 by 5. That made the amount stolen \$45,000 a year. Then he divided this sum by 365, which brought the figure to approximately \$120 a day. He then divided 120 by 24, which reduced the sentence of the wealthy man to an hour for every \$5 stolen. The poor man had stolen only \$2. To prove that the rich and the poor should be treated alike, the jurist sentenced the poor man to 24 minutes in jail.—CHARLES WOESSNER, *In Other Words*, (Lymanhouse, \$2).

LOANS

Once a friend lent the sculptor Jo Davidson \$200. Years later when Davidson had become famous and made a lot of money, the friend asked for the return of his loan. "Not on your life," boomed the sculptor. "I couldn't pay you back that money. That was not \$200 you lent me, it was a million. And I haven't got that much."

The friend was irritated.

"All right, I'll tell you what I have

Clarence Darrow's Shock System . . .

IRVING STONE has followed his propensity for biography in the new best-seller Clarence Darrow for the Defense, (Doubleday, Doran, \$2). A shrewd individualist, self-chosen protector of freedom, Darrow made history in his cross-examinations and summations in court. His debates and lectures, almost as famous, have the same element of the startlingly unexpected which brought so many verdicts of "Not Guilty" for his clients. It is from his lectures that we quote.

Wary of those who believed truth could be absolute and unchanging, Clarence Darrow believed a closed mind was a dead mind. And because it took a tremendous force to open anything that had been long closed, he evolved the method of shock to open dense and heavy minds. Invited by one of Chicago's multimillionaires to address a group before a dinner party, he went to the house straight from his office, in his wrinkled blue serge suit. He found the women gowned in lace and ermine, wearing many diamonds and pearls, the men in swallowtails and white vests. Standing before his audience in the luxurious drawing room, Darrow announced in his most guileless voice: "Friends, the subject of my little talk tonight will be: 'Down with the Rich!'"

" "

In Miami Darrow was introduced at a public gathering by a chairman who said, "It gives me great pleasure to present Mr. Darrow to such a large and intelligent audience." Darrow got up, surveyed the six hundred persons before him silently for several seconds and said, "My friend, the chairman, is mistaken. There are not this many intelligent people in the whole world."

" "

Invited as a criminologist to address the prisoners of the Cook County jail, Darrow said: "There is no such thing as crime as the word is generally understood. Nine tenths of you are in jail because you did not have enough money to pay a good lawyer. While some of you men might pick my pocket because that is your trade, when I get outside everybody picks my pocket—by charging me a dollar for something that is worth twenty-five cents."

" "

At a labor meeting one night Darrow was introduced as a friend of the laboring man. "Yes," said Clarence as he rose to speak, "I have always been a friend of the working man, and I hope I always will be. I would rather be a friend of the working man than to be a working man."

done," said the unrepentant borrower. "I gave that \$200 to other struggling artists, to whom again it meant a million, a chance to work, an opportunity to make good."—ELLA WINTER, "A Poet of Life," *US Week*, 1-3-'42.

MORALE—British

One of the most remarkable tributes to British morale comes from the pen of Britain's most implacable enemy, Adolf Hitler. In *Mein Kampf* appears a passage of which Britain is now making effective propaganda use: "The spirit of the British nation enables it to carry through to victory any struggle it once enters upon, no matter how long the struggle may last or however great the sacrifice that may be necessary or whatever the means which have to be employed; and all this though the actual equipment at hand may be utterly inadequate when compared with that of any other nation."—OLIVER BENSON, "The Changing Pattern of the War," *Current History*, 12-'41.

PAN-AMERICAN
RELATIONS

The greatest asset the United States possess today in Brazil is the confidence of Brazilians that neither books nor news nor movies are censored on this side of the equator for political reasons. The news bulletins that go out over the shortwave radio are not edited and "slanted" by our government. Books like *The Grapes of Wrath* were not doctored by our censors for Brazilian readers. The movies which often make us ridiculous are sent to Brazil none the less. The ability of Americans to laugh at themselves is a particularly endearing trait—not found, obviously, in either of the fascist countries. The mere fact that the United States (so far) is unafraid to have Brazilians see the bad and the good in American life is in itself powerful propaganda.—FLORENCE HORN, "Formidavel, Fabulosissimo," *Harper's Magazine*, 12-'41.

News of the New

ARMY: Honolulu surgeons shout praise of "sulfa" drugs in first big-scale test. Recoveries are miraculous. "Get 'em into hospital alive; we'll pull 'em thru!" they exult. Despite ideal conditions for spread, not single case of gangrene has occurred.

CHEMISTRY: For first time, chemical core of living matter, drawn from various animal organs, has been isolated in pure form. Report by Prof. Arthur W. Pollister, Columbia U., Dr. Arthur E. Mirsky, Rockefeller Inst. for Medical Research.

Chlorine gas, vital in many war products, can now be made without electricity. New formula, combining salt and sulphur, announced by Prof. Arthur W. Hixon, Dr. Alvan H. Tenney, Columbia. U.

DEFENSE: Smoke screen instead of blackout is new air-raid precaution tested at Gary (Ind.) steel works. Plant effectively hidden. Screen can be quickly raised; may be used thru-out industrial midwest.

Helmets of heavy cotton cloth, treated with soybean material may soon protect industry workers, home-defense wardens. Will deflect 40-lb. blow—all human neck can stand.

INVENTION: Eastman announces kodacolor film to take color pictures with any kind of roll camera. Cost, about 70 cents per picture.

New electric shaver has tiny flashlight to illuminate face so no whisker can escape being seen and shorn.

Now, it's non-inflammable knitting needles—for fireside knitters or smokers.

Britain has developed suitcase radio transmitter, waterproof and buoyant. May be thrown overboard in abandoning ship; picked up later by lifeboat.

THERAPY: War neuroses unaffected by insulin shock treatment have been cured thru 20 hours sleep each day for 5 to 10 days, reports British psychiatrist, Dr. Robert Dick Gillespie. Sleep-inducing drugs were used, but undisturbed rest brought the recovery.

TRANSPORTATION: New type cargo ship eludes submarines. Sits 10 ft. above, 11 ft. below water. To escape wave action, torpedoes must travel depth greater than 11 ft.

Experimental road in Minnesota has been made of cast iron.

PATRIOTISM

We can't all be "All-Americans"—but we can be Americans, All.

Sic transit not-so-gloria. . .

The American people face revolutionary changes in their way of life in 1942 and in the immediate years ahead. Only the very wealthy and the very poor will be untouched. The former may be able to afford things which others will have to do without. The latter will not feel the loss of comforts and luxuries they never enjoyed.

People will wear patched clothes and shoes and like it. They may even be forced to press and mend their apparel at home. They will eat more stews, cheaper cuts of meat, more potatoes and bread, fewer fruits and vegetables. Dairy products such as cheese, butter and eggs will soar in price because of heavy consumption by our armed forces and shipments to our Allies. Folks may have to rely on domestic substitutes for coffee and spices and oils from far lands now blockaded. They will ride trolleys or bicycles instead of rolling to work in autos. They will dispense with ornaments and seemingly necessary household replacements. Families may have to double up because of a housing shortage.—RAY TUCKER, in his Column, *Washington Whirligig*.

RADIO

It was during the first 48 hours of the war with Japan. An announcer had broken into many a regularly scheduled program to bring his listeners the latest war news. Finally, to relieve the tension, the announcer quipped: "We interrupt the news flashes to bring you a regularly scheduled program."—*The Billboard*, 1-3-42.

RELIGION—Service

Bald, black-skinned Dick was cook on the naval cruiser of which I was the minister. Dick was my only Deacon. He supplied fresh flowers for the weekly services, he distributed programs, and regularly bid the men come to church. At first I wondered that the boys took him so seriously, but soon I learned how hard he tried to deserve their respect.

I had to manage the boxing bouts which formed such a feature of the recreational life of our crew. Week

after week, on Saturday afternoons, one of the contenders in the 110 pound class was my 45-year-old deacon, Dick! He did not often win. But he never missed a Saturday.

Once I said to him, out of pure compassion, "Dick, aren't you getting too old to box? You mustn't kill yourself for sport!"

He smiled as he replied, "Too old? I hope not. And you know I don't do it for sport. I do it for Sunday. The boys remember me, when I come around to get them out for church. I hope I never get too old to box!"—BERNHARD CLAUSEN, "Wardroom Steward," *Christian Herald*, 1-42.



War is hurting movies more than somewhat. Not only actors—Doug Fairbanks, Bob Montgomery, Jimmy Stewart—but more than a thousand sorely-needed technicians have gone into service. . . . Since war declaration, soldiers in uniform find hitchhiking simple. One reports he can thumb faster than travel by bus or rail. . . . Rifles have been placed in animal houses of National Zoological Park as air-raid precautions, should more formidable beasts be accidentally released from cages. . . .

Tokio announces henceforth "China Incident Bonds" will be known as "Greater East Asia War Bonds." . . . No more exploding cigars and rubber chewing-gum. Jap-made fun gadgets are disappearing from shelves and counters of our novelty shops. . . . U. S. officers have been referring to Jap soldiers as "Charlies." Now, Americans yclept Charles are forming A. F. P. C. J. S. C.—Association for Prevention of Calling Japanese Soldiers "Charlie."

No New Year cards in Berlin this year. Gov't can't spare paper to print 'em or men to deliver. . . . Prof. ALBERT W. ARON, U. of Ill., told Modern Language Ass'n intense anti-German feeling of last war has not developed here. Study of German has declined 11% against general decline in all subjects of 15%.

SICKNESS—In Germany

Sickness is a crime in Germany today. Calling a doctor is a punishable offense, unless one has a "certificate of illness"; and such certificates may not be applied for before a patient has a temperature of more than 101 degrees and is in serious condition. Proclaimed the Nazi Propaganda Office in a recent bulletin: "Illness is a sign of inferiority and a good racial German cannot be sick!" Neither before nor after childbirth, except in rarest emergency instances, are mothers permitted to receive hospital care, although, ironically it is woman's bounden duty in Nazi philosophy to breed more and better Nazi children. —LEO FONTAINE, "Thru the Show Globe," *American Druggist*, 12-'41.

TAXES

You can't even get the necessities of life any more without being taxed —and even then, half the time it isn't fit to drink! —GALBRAITH, Cartoon Caption.

In Praise of Dumb Animals

Although you may not like his shape,
Toby is a charming ape.
With Lebensraum he's not concerned,
Of Aryan myths he's never learned.
He drops no bombs. He drives no tanks.
He steals no gold from his neighbor's banks.
He loves his offspring—leaves them free
To sate their curiosity.
Alas, I must deplore, O Man;
You've not improved much on his clan.
—ROSALIE REES, *Nature Magazine*, 12-'41.

TAXES—Overpayment

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has uncovered a new taxpayers' racket. Not evasion of taxes—but overpayment. According to law, when the Bureau makes a refund on overpayment of taxes, it adds six per cent interest for the time such funds have been retained. Now it develops that a good many citizens find this six per cent so attractive that they err deliberately in computing their annual income taxes and thereby earn on the excess payments three or four times what any savings bank would pay.—"Through the Editor's Specs," *Nation's Business*, 12-'41.

What about RUBBER?

By PHIL S. HANNA

Editor, *Chicago Journal of Commerce*

Guayule—pronounced wy-you-lee—at the moment is a rather uncommon word. But if the Japanese carry through what they have started in natural rubber-producing areas, the American people are likely to become very familiar with guayule.

Guayule is a fibrous plant which seems to absorb a fluid nearly like natural rubber out of the air during the hot dry season of summer. This fluid is extracted from the plant by a crushing process and except for having a higher quantity of resin, is almost identical with natural rubber. Out near Salinas, California, a company has developed 2,000 acres of guayule plants and is producing a small amount of rubber.

But this is only a starter, according to W. F. O'Neil, president of General Tire & Rubber company, who has been a prime mover in advocating the use of guayule. The government will plant 150,000 acres in guayule bushes in January, 1942. This plot is expected to produce seed enough for one million to one and a half million acres in 1943. Moreover, it is estimated that this 150,000 acres will yield 75,000 tons of rubber in late 1942 as well as the seed for the larger acreage mentioned.

“ ”

Both the synthetic product and the guayule product have been in production in small quantities for some time. But cost has necessarily been high. In California the guayule product has cost about 25 cents a pound to raise, but Dr. David Spence of Stanford University has shown experimentally that it can be produced for much less. It is said he has produced 1,100 pounds to the acre and that he expects to show that its cost can be brought down to 10 cents a pound, which would make it competitive with the foreign product.

There are millions of acres of land in the states of Arizona and New Mexico, California and Texas, ideally

suited to raising the guayule plant. It is necessary to have arid conditions when the rubber content is forming but the plant also needs 10 to 12 inches of rainfall during the remainder of the year. Furthermore it cannot stand low temperatures. Thus arid parts of the West which have irrigation or a rainy season during winter months are ideal. Utah offers some possibilities as well as Nevada.

“ ”

In any event the production at Salinas of half a ton per acre of rubber which will give 90 per cent of the

Dandelion Rubber

The Russian dandelion, or kok-sagyz, holds promise of producing synthetic rubber at one-third less than present cost of synthetics, according to Nat'l Farm Chemurgic Council.

Spokesmen say the kok-sagyz, now found only in Russia, would be more practicable than guayule, milkweed or other plants on which experiments have been made. The plant is readily acclimated and could be grown in midwestern states. Requires highly fertile soil and heavy rainfall.

There have been no exports of the plant from Russia, and no seeds are available at present.

mileage of tree rubber is encouraging. It provides a basis for hope that within two years the United States will be able to start compensating itself for imports cut off by the Japanese. It is no time for joking but it would be a good joke on the Japanese if, after their costly excursion into Malaya and Thailand to capture our rubber supplies, this country began to "roll its own" and left the Japanese with a lot of rubber and its biggest market eliminated.—Condensed from *Chicago Sun*.

WAR—Materiel

Strange contributor to National Defense is the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which collapsed into Pudget Sound some months ago. OPM announces triumphantly that they will salvage from the wreckage enough scrap steel for "100 light or medium tanks, 200 four-ton trucks, or 600 sixteen-inch navy shells."

WEATHER—Forecasts

Newspapers on the coast are no longer allowed to give weather forecasts, because it might help the enemy. So the *San Francisco News* pays \$1 a day for the best silly forecast submitted. e. g. 'Possibly rain, conceivably snow, it may even clear up, we really don't know.'—ERNIE PYLE, in his Syndicated Column.

GENS FROM Yesteryear

Preparation for Peace
By LINCOLN STEFFENS

The far-visioned few whose thoughts turn toward tomorrow's peace, will read with fascination this classic excerpt from The Autobiography of LINCOLN STEFFENS. Must we journey thru another Valley of Versailles? Can something be done—now? Mr. Steffens will be recalled as a liberal journalist of international renown. He died in 1936, at the age of 70.

One day at the end of 1917 or early in 1918, Col. House sent for me. He said that the war was going to end—sometime, and that the President had come to realize there had been no thought of terms; there had been no propaganda for peace, only for war, and that when he should go to Europe to make peace, he would have no intelligent backing for peace in his own country.

House pointed out that in my lecture on Russia I was giving the Bolshevik peace terms. Why couldn't I go on for 10 minutes and state the President's peace terms? He said I must do it at my own risk; couldn't be backed up or rescued from arrest.

I was about to lecture across the country, so I took on the patriotic service, very gingerly, tentatively. At Buffalo and Detroit, there were no arrests. But there was something else; there was pain on the faces of the people as I said that a permanent peace meant no victory, no punishment; that we would have to sit down with the enemy, we allies, and settle the causes of war in all fairness, leaving no rancor and wrongs to bring on another war. In Chicago, some of my audience got up and ran out of the hall, not in anger, but in pain. . . .

I realized more and more that the people with sons at the front were psychologically fighting a war with the Germans, and they could not—literally it was impossible for them to—think of the President treating fairly with the Germans as human beings. . . . It is cruel to talk peace to a people at war, especially if they are not actually fighting. Soldiers at the front might stand it, but the frightened masses in the rear—they must not be tortured with thought and reflection. . . . The time to make for peace is not when a war is on; the only time to prepare for peace is before war begins. *The Autobiography of Lincoln Steffens* (Harcourt, 1931).

Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

An Englishman said to an American: "I say, I think it's wonderful you Americans have invented substitutes for silk. What with your cutting down on exports and imports from Japan and all that. But I wonder if you could tell me just what the new word 'nylon' actually means?" "That's easy," replied the American, happily wisecracking, "Now You Lousy Old Nipponese!"—VIRGINIA COWLES, *Vogue*.

"I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE"

1941 World Champion "tall story teller" is R. C. Cross, awarded the diamond-studded 10-cent lyre by the Burlington (Wisc.) Liars Club for this tale of catching fish with a barber pole.

"First I pour hair tonic in the stream," related Mr. Cross, "a technique developed in the land of Unadella, where fish grew beards after a native accidentally spilled hair tonic in their habitat.

"The only remaining step is to put up a barber pole and the *Police Gazette* on the bank and shout, 'Next!' The fish jump out of the water to get a shave."—UP dispatch.

Some time ago a doctor was called to the country to see a negro man. While making a routine examination he took the colored man's blood pressure and remarked, "A little low." After the examination was completed and the doctor was busy writing out some prescriptions, another negro came in and asked, "John, how is you?" To this, John replied, "I'se better. I did had the low blood pressure, but the doctor done pumped dat up now."—*Modern Medicine*.

Cuthbert had been listening for half an hour to a lecture from his father on the evils of late morning rising.

"You will never amount to anything," said his father, "unless you turn over a new leaf. Remember, it's the early bird that catches the worm!"

"Ha, ha!" laughed Cuthbert. "How about the worm? What did he get for turning out so early?"

"My son," replied the father, "that

worm hadn't been to bed all night; he was on his way home!"

A farmer, visiting his son's college and wandering into the chemistry class, saw some students experimenting.

"What are you trying to do?" he asked.

"We're endeavoring," replied one of the students, "to discover or invent a universal solvent."

"What's that?"

"A liquid that will dissolve anything."

"That's a great idea," agreed the farmer. "When you find it, what are you going to keep it in?"—*The Financial Post*.

WISECRACKS of the Week

Toast to the Japanese navy: "Bottoms up!"—WALTER WINCHELL.

Modern marriage is like a cafeteria. A man grabs what he wants, and pays for it later.—*Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union*.

Alas, if you keep your chin up, all that your associates will notice is that you have your nose in the air.—OLYN MILLER.

Some people are in debt because they spend what their friends think they make.—*Indianapolis Times*.

Tenterhooks—the upholstery of the anxious seat.—ROBERT E. SHENWOOD.

Alimony—a man's cash surrender value.

He had taken pains when he applied for work to assure the farmer that he never got tired. When his new employer went to the field where he had put the man at work, he found him lolling on his back under a tree.

"What does this mean?" asked the farmer. "I thought you were a man who never got tired?"

"I don't" said the hired man calmly. "This doesn't tire me."—*Credit*.

